

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 10 as follows. Please add new Claims 34-36 as follows.

10. (Twice Amended) A process for preparing a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid of Claim 1 comprising

- E2*
SWA
F5
- (a) culturing a vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of Claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is functionally linked to regulatory sequences which ensure expression of the nucleic acid in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells, and
 - (b) isolating the polypeptide from the cell or culture medium.

34. (New) A process for preparing a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid of Claim 1 comprising

- E2*
- (a) culturing a host cell comprising at least one nucleic acid of Claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is functionally linked to regulatory sequences which ensure expression of the nucleic acid in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells, and
 - (b) isolating the polypeptide from the cell or culture medium.

~~35.~~ (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence selected from

- SWA*
F1
- (a) a sequence according to nucleotide No. 372 to nucleotide No. 2681 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotide No. 335 to nucleotide No. 1822 of SEQ ID NO: 3 and nucleotide No. 95 to nucleotide No. 1597 of SEQ ID NO: 5,
 - (b) a sequence complementary to the sequences defined under (a), and
 - (c) a sequence which, due to degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same amino acid sequences as those encoded by the sequences defined under (a),

wherein said nucleic acid encodes a complete or partial acetylcholine receptor subunit having the ability to form homooligomeric acetylcholine receptors when expressed in host cells.

36. (New) A process for preparing a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid of Claim 35 comprising

- E² cont'd*
- (a) culturing a host cell comprising at least one nucleic acid of Claim 35, wherein the nucleic acid is functionally linked to regulatory sequences which ensure expression of the nucleic acid in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells, and
 - (b) isolating the polypeptide from the cell or culture medium.
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